

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A shoe comprising:

an outsole;

an insole provided with at least one aperture, said insole being attached to said outsole along an upper surface thereof, said aperture extending through said insole to said upper surface of said outsole;

an upper including an elongate element; and

a grommet inserted into said aperture, said elongate element extending into said grommet and attached at least indirectly to said outsole, said grommet extending only partway into said aperture from an upper surface of said insole, said grommet being spaced from said upper surface of said outsole.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The shoe defined in claim [[2]] 1 wherein said aperture has a first length and said grommet has a cylindrical portion with a second length substantially shorter than said first length, said cylindrical portion extending into said aperture from said upper surface of said insole, said cylindrical portion being spaced from said upper surface of said outsole.

4. (currently amended) The shoe defined in claim 3 wherein said grommet includes a flange bonded to [[an]] said upper surface of said insole.

5. (original) The shoe defined in claim 4 wherein said elongate element is a tubular strap.

6. (original) The shoe defined in claim 5 wherein said upper is a thong type upper, said insole being provided with at least one other aperture and an additional grommet extending at least partway into said aperture, said strap being one end portion of said upper, said upper having another end portion inserted through said additional grommet and said other aperture, said another end portion being fixed at least indirectly to said outsole.

7. (currently amended) The shoe defined in claim 6 wherein said upper surface of said outsole is located in a recess on an upper side of said outsole, said insole being seated in said recess.

8. (currently amended) The shoe defined in claim 5 wherein said tubular strap is split at an end to form a plurality of flaps, said flaps being disposed between a lower surface of said insole and said upper surface of said outsole, said flaps being bonded to said upper surface of said outsole.

9. (currently amended) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said grommet includes a flange bonded to [[an]] said upper surface of said insole.

10. (original) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said elongate element is a tubular strap.

11. (original) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said upper is a thong type upper, said insole being provided with at least one other aperture and an additional grommet inserted into said aperture, said elongate element being one portion of said upper, said upper having another portion inserted through said additional grommet and said other aperture, said another portion being fixed at least indirectly to said outsole.

12. (currently amended) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said upper surface of said outsole is located in a recess on an upper side of said outsole, said insole being seated in said recess.

13. (original) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said insole is a thermoplastic resin foam material provided with a vinyl coating.

14. (original) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said outsole is made of ethylene vinyl acetate.

15. (original) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said grommet has a cylindrical portion extending into said aperture.

16. (original) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said outsole is substantially thicker than said insole.

17. (original) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said outsole has a heel portion and a forefoot portion separated by an instep recess.

18. (currently amended) The shoe defined in claim 1 wherein said insole is adhesively bonded to said upper surface of said outsole.

19. (currently amended) A shoe comprising:

an outsole;

an insole provided with at least one aperture, said insole being attached to said outsole along an upper surface thereof, said aperture extending through said insole to said upper surface of said outsole;

an upper including an elongate element inserted through said aperture; and

a reinforcement member attached to said insole ~~at least~~ along only an upper side of said aperture for protecting material of said insole from stresses inflicted by said elongate element of said upper.

20. (original) The shoe defined in claim 19 wherein said reinforcement element is a grommet extending into said aperture.

21. (new) A shoe comprising:

an outsole;

an insole provided with at least one aperture, said insole being attached to said outsole along an upper surface thereof, said aperture extending through said insole to said upper surface of said outsole;

an upper including an elongate element; and

a grommet inserted into said aperture, said elongate element extending into said grommet and attached at least indirectly to said outsole, said grommet including a flange adhesively bonded to an upper surface of said insole.